



Western Port Catholic Parish Newsletter

**Immaculate Conception Hastings, St Peter's
Shoreham and St Brendan's Church Somerville**

3rd Sunday of Advent Y-A—14 December, 2025

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Thekkekalathungal IVDei

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[www.melbcatholic.org/s/
westernport](https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/westernport)

**BAPTISM ENQUIRIES &
COMMUNION TO THE SICK:**
Parish Centre 5979 4374

PARISH SCHOOLS:

CRIB POINT St Joseph's
Primary School 5983 9374

HASTINGS St Mary's Pri-
mary School 5979 1959

SOMERVILLE St Brendan's
Primary School 5977 7277

MORNINGTON Padua
College Vice Principal
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373
**St Vincent de Paul Help
Assistance Call Centre**
(9am-noon M-F) 5976 4974

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts,

'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much

more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Halfway through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT: A JUBILEE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS



In December 2024, **Pope Francis** opened the Holy Door in St Peter's, marking the beginning of the Jubilee. The task of closing that door now falls to his successor, **Pope Leo XIV**. Looking back over this Jubilee Year, Archbishop **Rino Fisichella**, organiser of Jubilee 2025, says the Holy Year has brought the 'dimension of the pilgrimage back to the centre' and that among the fruits of the Jubilee is the 'rediscovery of personal responsibility in the faith that is strengthened by hope'.

Melbourne Catholic

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 15th—21st December

MONDAY No Mass

TUESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville

11.00am Funeral Mass at Shoreham for John Nuttman

WEDNESDAY 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY No 9.30am Mass at Hastings

1.00pm Funeral Mass at Hastings for Patricia Tagliabue

FRIDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

SATURDAY

10.00am—10.30am: Reconciliation at Hastings

6.00pm Mass at St Brendan's Church, Somerville

SUNDAY

8.00am Mass at St Peter's Church, Shoreham

10.00am Mass at Immaculate Conception Church,
Hastings

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS.

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Russell Petrie, Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Pat Tagliabue, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, Edna Walsh, Jane Maria, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Mike Mason, Elaine Duyvestyn, James Smythe, Lucy Triffett, Helena Jaskolski, Oscar Dixon-Rotherham, Margaret Sherlock, and all those who need our prayers. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.

Please pray for those who have died recently, especially John Nuttman, Patricia Tagliabue and Adrian Dal Lago, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Alice Mary Howard and Mel Adolphus. May they rest in peace.

The story behind the young woman who wept while hugging Pope Leo in Beirut

As Pope Leo XIV was wrapping up his first apostolic trip to Turkiye and Lebanon recently, the world was moved by the sight of a young Lebanese woman crying and hugging the pontiff as he was meeting with victims of the deadly 2020 Beirut port explosion. 'My heart was beating so fast when I saw that God had put the Holy Father right in front of me,' Melvine Khoury, a Maronite Catholic, later recalled. Continue reading: [The story behind the young woman who wept while hugging Pope Leo in Beirut](#) (Melbourne Catholic)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CUPBOARD

The demand for non-perishable food is significant and the Conference is currently purchasing items to give to those in need in our Community.

We are in desperate need of the following food items. Long Life Milk, Pasta and Pasta sauces, tins of Soup, Baked Beans, Spaghetti, Tuna, diced Tomatoes, tins of Vegetables and tinned Fruit. Spreads such as Peanut Butter, Jam, Vegemite, Sweet and Dry biscuits and Two-minute noodles and Cup of soups. Any type of toiletries would be most welcome. Thank you for your ongoing support!

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 20th & 21th December

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Garry McDonell	Sylvia Falzon	Michelle Claudio	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Agnes Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Val Baxter	Joan White	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Peter Schreiner	Michael Smith	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen		DEC. - Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	DEC. - Marg Grant		Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Val Baxter	Somerville Maintenance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	
Cleaning	DEC. - Tracey Clark				

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER: JOY

Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS

APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

St. Vincent De Paul 2024 Christmas Appeal will be conducted in all three Mass centres over the this weekend of **13 & 14 December**.

MINI VINNIES PREPARING CHRISTMAS HAMPERS AND SINGING CAROLS

This year, Mini Vinnies teams, along with staff members from our three Parish Primary Schools, consolidated all the donations in the Parish Centre in Hastings and assisted with the packing of 75 hampers for our St. Vincent de Paul team to distribute before Christmas.



Mini Vinnies from three schools also sang the Christmas Carols for residents of nursing homes. Congratulations to Mini Vinnies on their great work and may God bless you!



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - 2025

Wednesday, 24th December, 2025– CHRISTMAS EVE

- * 5.00pm – FAMILY MASS at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
- * 6.00pm – FAMILY MASS at St Brendan's Church, SOMERVILLE preceded by Christmas Carols at 5.45pm
- * 8.00pm – Mass at St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

Thursday, 25th December, 2025– CHRISTMAS DAY

- * 10.00am – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
- * 10.00am – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION SERVICE (With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Wednesday, 17th December, 7.00pm at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FEAST IN OUR PARISH

Last weekend we celebrated our Parish feast, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in all our three churches. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this beautiful celebration – to our lovely volunteers, our schools' principals, families with children and all our Parishioners who came to the Mass and shared a plate afterwards, sharing the spirit of community. Your presence is a precious gift to our Parish. May God bless you and may Blessed Mother Mary keep watching over our Parish. *Fr Shymon*



ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI IS CALLING ON SYNOD

This weekend, the Third Sunday of Advent, **Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli** is formally announcing, through our Parishes, the calling of an **Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026**. During 2026, Archdiocese will provide clear details regarding how this important journey for the People of God in Melbourne will unfold.

Archbishop's Letter is available at the welcoming tables of our churches.

2026 COLUMBAN ART

CALENDARS

You can find 2026 Columban Art Calendars at all our three churches for \$10 each.

Total giving from the week 1st Dec.—7th Dec. 2025

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) - \$791.75

2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$2233
Tap Machine Donations \$157.28

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Western Port Parish is committed to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protect them from harm.